

## EARLY SCHOOLS OF MAUI

By William C. Crook

(Author's Note.—Mr. C. R. Bishop, as far back as 1880, had the foresight to prophesy that English would be the language of the Islands in the future and with that in view, sent to California for a teacher and I happened to be the one selected.)

I came to the Islands in December, 1880. This country was then a kingdom under the reign of Kalakaua. Mr. C. R. Bishop was superintendent of public instruction and Mr. James Smith was secretary of the board. I remained a week in Honolulu visiting the public schools and the week following I came to Maui and presented my letter from Mr. Bishop to H. P. Baldwin, then the school agent at Paia.

Mr. Baldwin told me my school house was not yet finished and sent me to his residence at Sunnyside with a note to Mrs. Baldwin to give me a room. That evening he told me the building would not be ready for a month so the following day I returned to Wailuku to await its completion.

I visited the public school there. It was a Union school where both native and the English languages were taught. Downstairs there were about 100 pupils learning their lessons in the Hawaiian tongue and upstairs there was a class of small children, partly white, being taught in English. Mr. Kinney was principal and Mrs. Kinney the teacher of the English class.

### Wailuku Union School

While I was there the sheriff drove up. He had a native boy in his buggy and asked Mr. Kinney to allow the boy to go with him for the day. This Mr. Kinney refused, saying it was against the law. This was a pointer for me. I spent several hours visiting that school, for the greater part in Mrs. Kinney's room. She had a very attentive class and she impressed me as being a very superior teacher for small children.

The school house was a big barn of a wooden building and stood where the present court house is. I noticed the children did not form in line but entered the school quietly as people do a church. They were dismissed in the same manner. That was the practice of that time, also in the Honolulu schools.

### School at Waihee

There was a Union school at Waihee which I visited. There the Hawaiian class was taught by a native and the English class by a part white. I remember, in pronouncing the word Mexico, he pronounced it Mezzico. Also at recess, he chased a large Hawaiian girl around the school in some sort of a game of tag. In this school, as in the other, the pupils came in and went out as silently as grown people do at church.

### St. Anthony's School

While in Wailuku I met a teacher I had known in San Francisco. He told me he was teaching in St. Anthony's school at Waihee.

thony's school, at the Catholic Mission. So on Saturday I called to see him. He had gone out, I was told by a priest who introduced himself as was a boarding school, that he had 15 boarders who had to work before and after school at chores and cultivating a vegetable garden, etc. As all his pupils were Hawaiian I gained much information in regard to the Hawaiian mind and disposition.

### Paia School Opens

My school at Paia opened on January 17, 1881. The school house looked like a dwelling house. It was 28 by 40 feet in size. The main room was 28 by 28 feet with two recitation rooms at the rear of the building that were 14 by 12 feet each. The main room had windows on each side and two in front. They could be raised from the bottom and let down from the top. The only ventilation was by these windows and the front door. There were seats for 60 pupils.

The school opened with an attendance of 20 pupils, the mothers of whom attended school with them every day for the first week. The attendance gradually increased until every seat was occupied by the time of the first vacation in April.

By this time better ventilation had to be secured and this was done by making openings in the four corners of the ceiling and one large one in the center. A small window was also made at each end, high up in the building. That was a great improvement but even then it was suffocating during the summer.

### Assistant Comes

After the April vacation I received an assistant, a Mr. Ralph. He had been working as a luna on a plantation and understood the Hawaiian language quite well. He was a tall man, weighing about 180 pounds, and had been trained in a military school. Teaching however, was not much to his liking. I made it his duty to look out for the pupils on the playground during recess.

By that time my health began to give away so if any punishing of pupils had to be done, I placed that task on him. I once asked him why he was so severe and he replied: "If you could understand what they say, you would feel like killing them."

Here I ought to explain that a white man married to a native woman and who had two children attending my school had cautioned me before the school opening that I should not learn to speak the native language. His reason was that many of the boys were from the native school in Makawao which had been closed, and that some of them were the worst boys on Maui. The second reason was that if I could not speak a word of their language, they must speak English to be understood, and furthermore, if I could not understand their conversation, it would not worry me. He said, "If you can govern them you can govern an army."

### Boys Not So Bad

If he had only known it, the worst

of them were not half as bad as some boys that I had taught in school at San Francisco.

We had no water tank or cistern in those days. The nearest water was half a mile away and had to be carried in buckets from a flume that was used to carry cane to the mill. The original schoolhouse was near Kaheka, about a mile from the sugar mill.

Our school agent, Mr. Baldwin, notified me that we must give an exhibition on the last day of school before the July vacation. How that was to be done with a class of children who in January had not known a word of English was a problem. Most of them were large boys and girls who could read and write in the Hawaiian. I must teach them to read in English before they could understand its meaning. This was done by drilling them on the sounds of the English vowels. The consonants were practically the same as in their own language. Then I secured books containing easy pieces to speak and easy songs to sing and we kept up drilling every day until the time came. They did not know the meaning of the words.

### Reception For The King

In the meantime I received notice that the King would be given a reception in lower Paia in May and that

I must march my children down and salute him. When the time came for the reception we sang a couple of songs and then marched in line before the King, made a proper bow and retired.

When the school closed for the long vacation we had exercises that lasted for two hours before a crowded audience consisting of the parents and friends of the children. The girls all wore new frocks and the boys new suits. In those days no liquor was allowed to be sold to the natives. There were no saloons, hence the natives took pride in seeing their children look well at the closing of the school term.

I boarded at Mr. H. P. Baldwin's home for the first month and then I tried boarding myself at the schoolhouse in one of the rear recitation rooms. This I did because of the wet weather. After six weeks I moved to a cabin near the mill and took my meals in the club house where the mill men were boarded. I spent every Saturday and Sunday in Wailuku where I could get better meals. In the meantime I kept after Mr. Baldwin for a school cottage. Up to this time hired teachers had never been provided with a cottage.

You will notice that the Paia school

was the first government school on Maui to teach wholly in the English language and the first to have a school cottage. When I first applied for a cottage Mr. D. D. Baldwin, the school inspector at that time, said: "If we give you a cottage, then every teacher of a government school in the country will want one." I told him a teacher must have some place to live. This may be news to teachers who now enjoy the present day conveniences.

After the first year we found ourselves in possession of a whitewashed cottage, a water tank that would hold a thousand gallons, a cleared school lot and all surrounded by a picket fence. By the third year I had my family in my own house and my school had outgrown its accommodations. A 10-foot addition was added to the building.

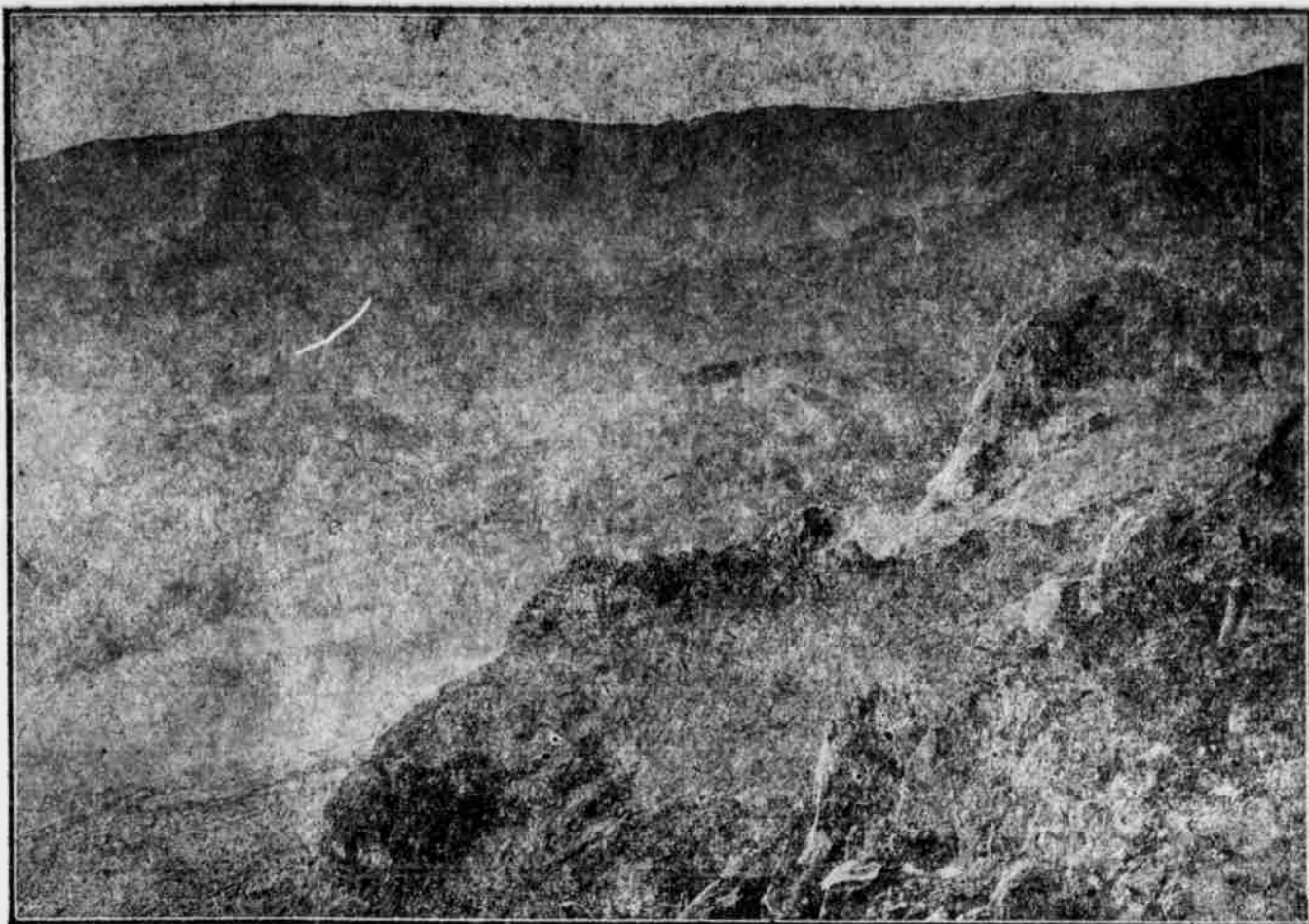
By the fourth year we had four teachers. Large boys came to school on horseback from the surrounding districts until as many as 30 horses could be counted staked near the schoolhouse on any school day. A large number of pupils was added to our school by the first importation of Portuguese to the Island. That compelled the erection of a new building and the employing of a new teacher.

### Hawaiian Tongue Dropped

I think it was about the time of the existence of the Provisional Government that the teaching of English became popular and other English schools were started. The native tongue was then discontinued in the schools. Good teachers were hard to procure and many schools had to do with teachers of no previous experience. By the introduction of a course of study, yearly examinations of teachers, teachers' meetings, and yearly inspection by the Inspector of Schools, was instigated. By this course great development was made in education. What I have said about the difficulties encountered by the Paia school in its primer days may also be said of other English schools in their beginning.

### Poor System

I might remark here that I was not given anything in the shape of a course of study. I was handed a small pamphlet containing the school law and told to proceed as I thought best. On one occasion I inquired from the Secretary of the Board of Public Instruction what was the average salary for principals of public schools in the country. Mr. James Smith, in reply, wrote that there were no average salaries, that principals made their own private agreement with the Board.



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